

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 ACDA-07 EURE-00 /073 W  
-----031322Z 053528 /50

P R 031217Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 599  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2883

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, NL  
SUBJ: SOUTH MOLUCCAN TERRORISTS

REF: THE HAGUE 2814

1. THE NEAR-DOZEN MOLUCCAN TERRORISTS, WHO HIJACKED THE TRAIN AND SEIZED THE SCHOOL 12 DAYS AGO, HAVE BY THEIR ACTIONS CAUSED A RELATIVELY SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF LIFE IN THE NETHERLANDS.

2. WITHIN HOURS AFTER THE MOLUCCANS MOVED, THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES--THEN IN THE HOME STRETCH OF ELLECTIONEERING--ANNOUNCED CESSATION OF THEIR ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES, THEREBY ABORTING THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN JUST BEFORE ITS CLIMAX. THE ELECTIONS DID, HOWEVER, PROCEED ON SCHEDULE AND IT IS WIDELY AGREED THAT THE SOUTH MOLUCCANS FAILED TO INFLUENCE THE RESULTS IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY.

3. THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS LEADING TO THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO BEEN SLOWED, GIVING THE HEAVY INVOLVEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL AND JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT WITH THE MOLUCCAN AFFAIR AND THEIR CONSEQUENT INABILITY TO FOCUS ON THE NEXT POLITICAL STEP. LATE LAST WEEK,  
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HOWEVER, DEN UYL INDICATED THAT THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION SHOULD NOT BE FURTHER DELAYED, AND THIS WEEK THE QUEEN DID PROCEED WITH THE PRESCRIBED CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY LEADERS, AFTER WHICH SHE ASKED DEN UYL TO FORM A CABINET. DEN UYL, HOWEVER, WILL CONTINUE TO BE SEVERELY HAMPED IN THIS TASK AS LONG AS HE IS SPENDING MUCH OF HIS TIME AT THE CRISIS CENTER IN THE HAGUE.

4. WHILE AROUND THE HAGUE THE GUARDS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE CRISIS CENTER AND ONE CAN NO LONGER NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL IN A FOOT, THE SITUATION IN FRENTH PROVINCE IS CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT. A MAJOR RAIL LINE REMAINS BLOCKED, AS DOES ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ROADS LINKING GRONINGEN PROVINCE TO THE SOUTH. THERE ARE LARGE NUMBERS OF CORRESPONDENTS, MANY FOREIGN, AT BOTH SITES. MAJOR COMMANDO AND POLICE UNITS REMAIN COMMITTED IN BOTH AREAS AND A LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS IS EXCLUSIVELY INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION.

5. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SOUTH MOLUCCANS HAVE TIED UP THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO EVIDENT IN OTHER WAYS. CUSTOMARY CLEARANCE FOR THE PRESS RELEASE FOR REFORGER/CRESTED CAP 77 MAY BE DELAYED (THE HAGUE 2849). THE DUTCH MAY ALSO HAVE TROUBLE MAKING EXPERT AVAILABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS (THE HAGUE 2866). THE STATE VISIT OF THE SURINAM PRESIDENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED (THE HAGUE 2811). MANY ROUTINE ISSUES ARE BEING LEFT ASIDE BECAUSE OF THE PREOCCUPATION OF KEY OFFICIALS WITH THE MOLUCCAN AFFAIR. IF IT CONTINUES, POLICE OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH ACDA CHIEF SCIENTIST JUNE 8 (THE HAGUE 2780).

6. THE FOREGOING IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE HANDFUL OF SOUTH MOLUCCANS HAVE LAMED THE COUNTRY. INDEED, AS TIME WEARS ON, THE NETHERLANDS IS LEARNING TO COPE PATIENTLY WITH THE SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS, THE MOLUCCANS HAVE UNDENIABLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY CAN DISJOIN THE NORMAL COURSE OF BUSINESS HERE. THIS FACT IS LIKELY TO WEIGH WITH DUTCH POLICY-MAKERS AS THEY

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FACE THE QUESTION HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SOUTH MOLUCCAN COMMUNITY AFTER THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO A CLOSE.

MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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